THE REPORTER

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

533 South Walnut Street
Springfield, Illinois 62704

217-522-4415
www.wpcspi.org

August
2026

Come Join Us!

Sundays At 10:00 a.m.
In-person or Livestream

www.wpcspi.org

Watch us on our
YouTube Channel -
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Springfield IL

August 2
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
Matthew 5:17-20
Jesus and the Law

August 9
SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION
ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
Matthew 4:1-11
Even the Devil Quotes Scripture

August 16
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
Matthew 22:34-40
The Rule of Love

August 23
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
Exodus 31:12-17
The Rule of Love: A Test

August 30
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
John 16:1-16
The Spirit Leads to Truth

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS –GOD'S GOT YOUR BACK!
SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, August 16, the children, and youth of Westminster are invited to bring their backpacks to the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the blessing of backpacks as they begin a new school year. Along with a blessing, each will receive a monogrammed carabiner with a Bible verse for their backpack as a reminder of God's loving presence on their journey throughout this school year.

SPLASH INTO THE NEW YEAR!
YOUNG FAMILY GATHERING
FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 FROM 5:30-7:00

On Friday, August 21, from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., young families (parents and children ages birth through grade five) are invited to a swim party at the home of Judy and Todd Knox (2004 Maryknoll Place, Springfield) as we splash into a new year together. Please bring a towel and a dish to share! Friends are always welcome and encouraged.

YOUTH KICK OFF PARTY AND MISSION TRIP REUNION
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 FROM 4:30 – 8:00 P.M.

On Sunday, August 9, from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m., incoming Junior and Senior High youth and participants of the 2026 Mission Trip will gather at Susan and Scott Day's Home (47 Fairview Ln., Springfield) for a lakeside potluck and play day. Angie and Todd Lafrenz will stop by to give a boat ride! Youth bring a salad, side dish or chips. Adults bring dessert and drinks. An email will go out with the details. Most importantly bring your great energy!

AUGUST SERMON SERIES
YOU'VE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID…. BUT I SAY TO YOU…

One of the ways that Jesus is described and understood is as a teacher. Jesus taught through what he said and how he lived his life. But have you ever thought about how Jesus models for us approaches to interpreting scripture? When Jesus taught, he was often commenting on scriptures from the Hebrew Bible to explain how people should understand them and apply them to their lives. He corrected what he thought were misinterpretations and highlighted aspects of scripture he thought deserved more emphasis. Throughout August, we will focus on New Testament passages of scripture that describe how Jesus interpreted verses from the Hebrew Bible and what his interpretation can show us about how Christians can faithfully wrestle with scripture today.

From The Pastor — The Rev. Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall

Throughout the spring, many of us shared dreams for Westminster through our mission study process. One theme surfaced again and again: a desire for deeper relationships, opportunities to connect across generations, and even more meaningful ways to grow in faith together. As we begin a new program year, we're excited to experiment with a few new opportunities: and All-Church Picnic and a Congregation-wide Book Read of *Love Your Neighbor*. We hope you'll give one of these new opportunities a try. We don't expect everyone to participate in everything, but we do hope everyone will consider participating in something. Your involvement will help us learn what is most meaningful as we continue growing together as a congregation at Westminster.

On **Sunday September 13**, we will gather after worship for an **All-Church Picnic**. Rather than beginning the year with sign-up sheets and displays, we're trying something a little different. We hope the picnic will be a chance to slow down, enjoy one another's company, and have conversations about the many ways God is at work through our shared ministry. Whether you have been here most Sundays or you've been away for a while, we hope you will join us for a relaxed morning together. Wear casual clothes to worship and plan to stay afterwards for food, fellowship, and fun. The picnic will be held in the Parish Hall and, weather permitting, will extend onto the terrace and green spaces. By gathering right after worship, we hope it will be easy for everyone to stay for a little while or spend the whole morning together.

Also at the picnic, representatives from many of our ministries will be there wearing buttons inviting you to ask questions. Whether you're curious about a particular ministry or simply want to learn more about all that happens beyond Sunday morning, we hope this will be a relaxed time for conversation rather than sign-up sheets. Westminster's Membership Committee and the Deacons' Congregational Fellowship Committee are partnering to host this event. Watch the e-news for a SignUpGenius on how you can help as we all make this a special day for our Westminster family.

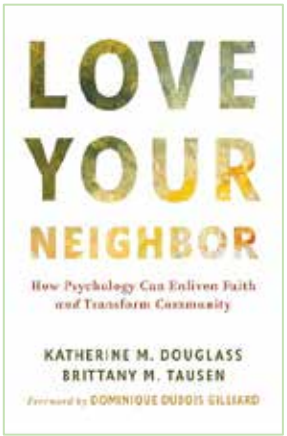
One of our hopes is that all who want to participate in the picnic can do so. If you would be willing to give a member a ride to the picnic who no longer drives, please contact **Sue Sawers at carecoordinator@wpcspi.org**.

Another way we are responding to the mission study feedback is by trying something Westminster has never done before: **a congregation-wide book read**. We hope many of you will participate by reading the book *Love Your Neighbor* and joining a four-week small group or even inviting a friend to participate with you too.

We believe this book offers valuable insights for Christian faith and discipleship, especially at a time when many people long for deeper community but find it difficult to build. Reading the same book together will also give us common topics to discuss as we get to know one another better. Whether we're reflecting during worship, participating in a small group, or chatting over coffee after worship, we'll be exploring many of the same ideas.

Finally, in response to feedback about strengthening communication and relationships, the staff is in the process of replacing our current church management software with a new system that includes improved communication tools and a supported mobile app. The new app will replace Church Life and restore access to our membership directory. We'll share more information as the rollout approaches and provide plenty of support to help everyone get the app installed and begin using it.

All Church Book Read -Beginning Sunday, September 20 Adult Forum



Whether you are a long-time member or have recently started getting to know the congregation, we hope you will join this church-wide conversation. An introductory Adult Forum will be held on Sunday, September 20. Small study groups will kick off on Sunday, September 27 and meet through Sunday, October 18.

Reading the same book together gives us common language and shared experience as we grow in faith and community at Westminster. We have secured copies of *Love Your Neighbor: How Psychology Can Enliven Faith and Transform Community* at a discounted price. Beginning August 9, books will be available in the church office and after worship on Sundays. To help cover the cost, we suggest a donation of $12 per book. However, if cost is a barrier, please take a copy with our blessing. We hope everyone will participate! Kindle and audiobook editions are also available for purchase online.

Because we believe this book will have broad appeal, we encourage you to invite a friend to join the conversation. If you know someone outside of Westminster who might enjoy reading the book and participating in a small group, consider taking an extra copy to give as a gift.

We are currently recruiting facilitators for our small groups. If you would like to help lead a discussion group, please contact Elder Jess Weitzel or Pastor Anne. We plan to offer groups on Sundays and during the week, with extended care for children available on Sunday mornings. Watch the weekly e-news and bulletin announcements for information about signing up for a small group.

Music Notes by Dale T. Rogers

The Westminster Summer Choir will meet on Thursday, August 6 at 7:00 p.m. to prepare music for singing at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, August 9 as well as looking at music for the weeks in September. The regular season of the Westminster Choir will resume on Thursday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room.

If you have considered joining the Westminster Choir, this is the ideal time. Our choir is a warm fellowship group of dedicated singers. They take their role of providing music of worshipful praise seriously while having fun, supporting each other, and enjoying each other's company.

The Annual Choir Retreat will be on Saturday, September 12 from 1:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the picturesque Indian Point Presbyterian Church, north of Athens. At the retreat we will read through the music for the fall and even into the Advent and Christmas seasons. Throughout the afternoon we will have breaks for snacks and times for walks down the country lanes where rolling meadows meet the high prairie.

I am grateful to the musicians who provide music throughout the summer months when the Westminster Choir is not in session. For the upcoming Sundays, the musicians are: Amelia Tungett on August 2, The Westminster Choir on August 9, Diane Dietz on August 16, Linda Andrews will be the organist on August 16 and 23 while I am attending the Organ Historical Society meeting in Philadelphia, Lyle VanDeventer on August 23, Lucy Yockey on August 30 and Genevieve Wages on September 6.

Opportunities to Serve

Mission and Community Service - Mission Grant applications are located on our website. Applications are reviewed by the committee on the first Tuesday of the month. All summer applications will be reviewed in August.

Contact Ministries Backpack Collection Through Sunday, August 9

We will continue to collect backpacks for children served by Contact Ministries until August 9. The backpack bin is in the West Narthex. We have collected 146 to date.

- Backpacks can be ordered online and sent to the church
- Backpacks can be placed in the bin in the West Narthex
- You can make a donation until Aug. 2 noting "Backpacks" on the memo line or with an online donation.

Hunger Ministries at Westminster

Daily Bread – Meals on Wheels

July 27 – 31 and August 3-7

There is still time to sign-up! We have 3 routes left to be fillend Visit the website to sign-up or by clicking here (if you are an online reader.) Thank you to the following ministry partners who are signed up to deliver meals to eligible senior citizens as part of the Specialty Daily Bread - Meals on Wheels program: *Sandy Bellatti, the Berkowitz Family, Cathy Crogoe, Susan & Scott Day, Georgina Hudspeth, Dorothy Hutchinson-Gross, Judy Knox, Lindsay & Hazel McClendon, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Gayle Olson, Debbie Parker, Christy Pound, Linda Purves, Mary Ray, Karen Sherrick, and Krista Steller.*

Corn Picking at Grigsby Farms Soon!

The annual sweet corn harvest for area food pantries and homeless shelters will be in the coming weeks. This corn is planted each year by Grigsby Farms (thanks to the Hale and Pound families). Following the harvest, sweet corn will be delivered to Central Illinois Food Bank. Watch for the coming email on this.

Helping Hands Lunches & Dinners Prepared

Members of Westminster's Hunger Action Team met Friday, May 8 and June 12 to prepare bagged lunches that were delivered to Helping Hands Shelter. Dedicated Hunger Fighters including Kris Gates, Nancy Huston, Georgina Hudspeth, Pat Hymans, Becky Martin, Judy Prillaman prepared and delivered the lunches.

The next Fair Trade Sale is on Sunday, August 16

On Wednesday, June 24, Ann Collins and Sue Sawers prepared a delicious hot meal of sloppy joes, 3 bean salad, baked beans, and dessert to serve 70. On July 22, Pat and Steve Jacobs prepared their family favorite Chicken Spectacular which contained chicken, rice, and green beans. Dinner also included green salad, rolls, cookies, and fruit. Marc Anderson faithfully provides milk every month. Call Pat Hymans to get information about preparing a meal.

Give -a- Meal -a- Month Suggestions: Beef Stew, Applesauce, Pancake Mix and Syrup, Canned Fruit in juice or water **High-Demand Items:** personal hygiene products, shampoo, conditioner, diapers & wipes size 3 & up, granola / nutri-grain / breakfast bars, individual cereal packs, soap. Thank you to all who place items in the West Narthex.

Graham School Little Pantry - Join the many Westminster members who share in filling the Graham School Little Pantry. Signup is on the website or use this QR code.

Compass For Kids Welcomes Ministry Partners

Compass for Kids is looking for ministry partners on Tuesdays 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. Westminster hosts this weekly tutoring after-school program, Club Compass, for the Graham Elementary students. This community-based program helps develop social-emotional/leadership skills while also giving kids the opportunity to participate in interactive life-skills and enrichment activities. If you would like to be a part of this meaningful outreach, please contact Shelly Kinner by phone at 217-414-7940 or by email shelly@compassforkids.org.

August Earth Care Tip

According to the USDA, the average American annually eats over 225 pounds of meat (i.e. beef, pork, and poultry). The environmental impact of this consumption is significant and varies by kind of meat. Beef is by far the worst offender: producing one pound generates over 60 pounds of carbon dioxide due to all the grazing land cows need and their unique digestive system. Cows are ruminants, meaning they ferment their food in a specialized stomach, generating methane–a potent greenhouse gas–that's released when cows chew their cud and burp (not fart) it out. Pork and chicken have a much smaller footprint, needing less land and producing only 7 and 6 pounds of CO_2 per pound respectively. Cutting back on meat, especially beef, remains one of the most effective ways to shrink the environmental impact of your diet.

Congregational Care at Westminster

If you like to visit with people in person that aren't able to get out, Sue Sawers would love to talk to you! Email her at carecoordinator@wpcspi.org.

Home Communion – If you are unable to attend worship and would like to receive Communion at home on Sunday August 9, please contact Sue Sawers or or the church office.

Family Ministry by the Rev. Sarah Bishop
Youth Ministry by Mary A. Ray
Special Thanks to Mission Trip Ministry Partners

Thank you, Westminster, for supporting this year's youth mission through your generosity and prayers. It could not have been as successful, life-changing, and spiritually nurturing without the dedicated individuals who became ministry partners on this journey.

Thank you to:

Tad Allen, for his steady strength in guiding and nurturing our youth.

Lindsay Boutelle, for her detail-oriented outlook and caring support of each youth.

Cathy Brower, for her nurturing presence and being such a wonderful listening ear.

Susan Day, for her strong leadership and driving skills as she modeled for the youth a servant heart.

Angie Lafrenz, for her medical skills shared with us with laughter and her joy to experience the adventure with us all.

Mary Ray, for her whole heart as she gives unreservedly to our youth, adults, and those we served in such a Christ-like spirit.

Thanks to all on this exceptional leadership team, and for all their servant leadership in relationship building and strengthening in Charleston. They were led by the Holy Spirit to be compassionate, creative, courageous, thoughtful, and all while having fun. It was a hard to beat mission trip, a privilege to serve with this amazing team, to be the hands, feet, heart of Christ, to see the face of our Lord, and to be the love of Christ in action with them.

Youth Ministry Partner Orientation
Sunday, August 16

Youth Ministry Partners (Junior and Senior High) will meet in Parish Hall **Sunday, August 16, from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.** for orientation. Teachers: **6th/7th Grade:** Meridith Bryans, Cara Barnett, Marc DeJong, Joe Fierstos, and Mary Ray. **8th Grade:** Dr. Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Tara Fritsch, Mary Ray

Senior High Mentors: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Cathy Brower, Susan Day, Kyle Duffy, Mary Ray,

College Age Brunch
Sunday, August 23

All college-age youth are invited to brunch with Rev. Bishop and Mary Ray on Sunday, August 23 at 11:30 a.m. Plan to meet Mary in the West Narthex following worship and catch up with friends over brunch.

Children's Ministry by Meleah Berkowitz
Thank You Summer Sunday School Teachers

This summer our children in Pre-K through Grade 2 studied the Parables of Jesus, and the 3rd-5th graders studied the Psalms. **August 17 through August 31** the children will learn about worship and the sacraments of baptism and communion. Special thanks to ministry partners: *Lindsay Boutelle, Cathy Brower, Rose DeJong, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward, and Julie Robbs.*

Sunday School Teacher And Nursery Guild Orientation
Sunday, August 16

Sunday school teachers for Pre-K through Grade 5 and members of the Nursery Guild will meet Sunday, August 16, from 9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. in Parish Hall for orientation and mandatory reporter training. Thank you to the following teachers who nurture our children's faith:

Nursery Guild: *Linda Caupert, Dee Dee Duffy, Sara Eldridge, Priscilla Kluge, Judy Knox, Val Leonatti, Lynn McMenamin, Leigh Milward, Julie Sundquist*

Pre-School Sunday School: *Cara and Taryn Barnett, Kate Bryans, Cathy Brower, Lindsay Boutelle, Maria and Rose DeJong, Dee Dee Duffy, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara and Abigail Eldridge, Leigh Milward*

Sunday School: *Cathy Brower, Lindsay Boutelle, Sophia Choi, Juliana Eastvold, Chelsea and Adam Ekstedt, Sara Eldridge, Katrina Opperman, Laura and Eric O'Reilly, Linda Purves*

If you would like to join us as a Ministry Partner next year, please reach out to Meleah at mberkowitz@wpcspi.org

Westminster Cooperative Preschool

During the summer months, the WCP teachers are working hard on their lesson plans for the upcoming school year. Additionally, we are preparing for a NAEYC site visit this upcoming school year as part of our accreditation renewal. Our students have loved coming back to play on the playground during our Westminster Wednesdays in the month of July!

Intergenerational Groups
Dungeons & Dragons

A group of intrepid adventurers have been meeting with Dungeon Master Aaron Berkowitz. On the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays of August 5 & 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ziegler Library** they'll explore Alexandria, Egypt and prepare for a cruise on a pleasure ship (where nothing bad will happen, I'm sure). They recently completed a quest for the Queen of Sheba and rescued one of the Three Magi in the 1st century AD ancient Near East. If you are interested in joining in, contact Aaron Berkowitz at berkowitz@wpcspi.org.

Pokémon Club

The Pokémon Club meets with Aaron Berkowitz on **Sunday, August 23**, from **12:30-2:00 p.m.** in the Second Floor Classroom. All children and the young at heart are welcome. No experience necessary and all supplies will be on hand.

Summer Sunday Children's Schedule

9:45 a.m. Nursery for Children Birth – Age 3
10:15 a.m. Sunday School follows the Children's Sermon for ages Preschool - Grade 5

Our children will continue to learn in their respective classrooms with the Frolic Preschool and elementary students will have special lessons on baptism and communion.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY by Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – Just Like Me!

Thank you to our incredible leadership team of 27 youth and adults, we welcomed 44 children to VBS.

MONDAY'S LESSON: I Wonder – Jesus Appears to Thomas (John 20:24-29)

TUESDAY'S LESSON: I Have Something to Shout About – Bartimaeus Receives His Sight (Mark 10:46-52)

WEDNESDAY'S LESSON: I Have Something to Share – Jesus Feeds the 5000 (John 6:1-15)

THURSDAY'S LESSON: I Need My People – The Widow's Oil (2 Kings 4:1-7)

FRIDAY'S LESSON: I Have Something to Say – Naaman Healed of Leprosy (2 Kings 5:1-14)

MISSION: School Supply Drive for Camp Compass, thank you to all who donated.

THANK YOU TO OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM:

Directors and Assembly Leaders: Meleah and Aaron Berkowitz Registrars: Pat Roller, Cheryl White

Bible Story and Drama Team: Rev. Sarah Bishop, Abigail Eldridge, Sophia Llosa, Charlie Cadagin, and August Ekstedt

Arts/Crafts: JoAnn Berkowitz and Sam Berkowitz Games: Isaac and Ethan Alt, Sam Kuforiji

Music: Meleah Berkowitz and Dale Rogers Snack: Pat Hymans Decorations: Al Hymans Special Garden Guests: Susan Shaw

Garden Guides: Kathy Bacon, Lucy Bassett, Julian Carruthers, Dee Dee Duffy, Georgina Hudspeth, Maria Lafrenz, Camille Massey, Charity Romero, Julie Sundquist, Krista Steller, Lily Swanson, Logan Tipsword

7th Annual Steadfast Neighbor Service Week – June 22 – 26, 2026

Thank you to our ministry partners for showing up and helping to make our 7th Steadfast Neighborhood Service Week a Success! We had an incredible week, with 75 volunteers working together to complete 36 projects in the neighborhood and at the church. This year we intentionally worked in the mornings and ended our time at lunch. Many thanks to the kitchen crew who kept us fed and energized. Because of the expertise and planning from our team leaders, many projects were completed by Wednesday. We were even able to bless other organizations with donations of unneeded supplies as we cleaned and organized storage rooms, supply room, and children's ministry spaces. During our celebration lunch of Friday, we were able to hear from our neighbors who expressed gratitude and shared how our efforts have not only improved properties in the neighborhood but also have built up a sense of community. Our neighbors continue to complete projects eligible for our matching grant awards that have become increasingly popular over the last seven years.

Ministry Partners: Linda Andrews & Claudia Nash, Teena Archer, Julie Barton, Lucy Bassett, Judy Boutelle, Dick Cordier, Linda Cox, Cathy Cragoe, Sue Cull, Susan & Scott Day, Peg DiFonso, Melanie & Bud Green, Noah Green, Keith Hamilton, Vonnie Hinesley, Cameron Hudgins, Nancy, Elliot, & Elijah Huston, Al & Pat Hymans, Marci Irvine, Pat Jacobs, Mary Jo & David Jenkins, Jay Kennerly, Charlie King, Priscilla & Tim Kluge, Todd Knox, Richard Leary, Vena Long, Jim McDonough, Mary Caroline Mitchell, Trudy & Doug Nelson, Tom Owen, Jim Parker, Julie Robbs, Kelly Robertson, Steve Scaife, Karen & Andy Sherrick, Lucy & John Stafford, Krista & Brad Steller, Mike Sundquist, Carolyn & Brad Swanson, Lyle VanDeventer, Jeanne & Pete VanGieson, Cara & Mark Vasconcelles, Stephen Vollmer, Jess Weitzel, Brinton Wilkey, and Sarah Zerfas **Neighborhood Partners:** Wendy Stoeven, Bill Steele

Westminster Staff: Jennie Alt, Braden Barton, Rev. Sarah Bishop, Meleah & Aaron Berkowitz, Rev. Jerry Boutelle, James Capler, Dr. Anne Marshall, Jerry McCullum, Dale Rogers, Lisa Runkle, and Gary Warnick

Youth Mission Trip to Charleston, South Carolina July 11-17

Nine youth and seven adult ministry partners headed out on Saturday, July 11 to Charleston, South Carolina. The team spent the night at First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville and worshiped with them on Sunday morning, then arrived that evening in Charleston. Working with Charleston Youth Ministry, two teams visited ministry partners in the Charleston region and fed hungry people, provided two weeks of clothing for children in the foster system, worked in neighbors' yards, and so much more! We spent each evening in Bible study, learning to declare our interdependence, and closed in worship on Friday morning with our own declaration. On our free day, we took an educational walk through downtown Charleston and spent the afternoon at Folly Beach. We safely traveled home, and the team led a meaningful worship on Sunday, July 18 with Sam Batterman and Maria Lafrenz sharing the message.

JAMES ISLAND
OUTREACH

Westminster
Presbyterian
Church
WORSHIP SUNDAY
900 AND 1100 AM
WPCCHARLESTON.ORG

Important Summer Happenings at Westminster

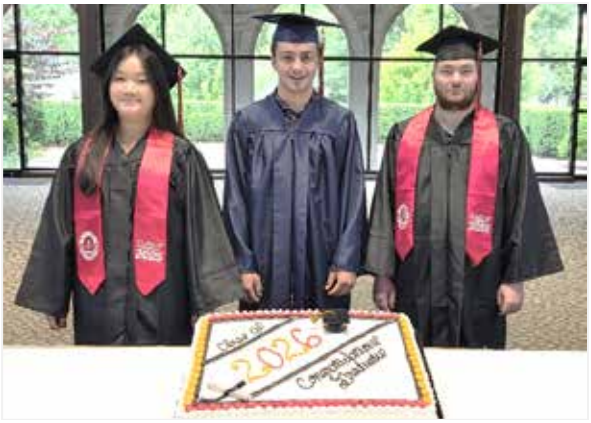
Camille Degner's 90th Birthday Reception Sunday, May 24

Pentecost Sunday, May 24

Ministry Partners Appreciation Sunday, May 31

Westminster Choir Sunday, May 31

Baccalaureate Sunday, June 7



Intergenerational Group - Pokémon Club

- Friends of the congregation celebrated Camille Degner's 90th Birthday with a reception after our worship service. Camille has been an integral member of Westminster for almost 73 years!

- Jim Kontio carried the Pentecost banner on Sunday, May 24 as we celebrated the birthday of the church and gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Pentecost Readers were Michella (Arabic) and Ben Arnold (Bahasa Indonesian), James Maeda (Japanese), Katy Maeda (French)

- Ministry partners who have served with all ages and with ministries, like Compass for Kids were celebrated on **Sunday May 31.** We give thanks for the ways so many contribute to our faith formation ministries.

  The choir finished their final Sunday for the 2025-2026 program year on May 31. They celebrated after worship with a choir picnic hosted by the Kontios.

- Congratulations to our high school seniors and college graduates! They were celebrated in worship on Baccalaureate Sunday, June 7. Following worship a reception was held with a slideshow of the graduates.

- Westminster has two intergenerational groups that are fun for all ages. The Pokémon group is held once a month and the Dungeons & Dragons group is held twice a month both are led by Aaron Berkowitz. He invites anyone to come check out what they do and join in the fun.

Fellowship Opportunities

Knit 2 Purl 4 Mission and Fellowship gathers on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Second Floor Classroom. Knitters are encouraged to knit cold weather items (warm hats, mittens, and scarves) for our fall and winter donations. Contact Mary Jo Jenkins at 217-622-8657.

DMA - Friday, August 21

DMA (Don't Mention Age) meets on the third Fridays in the months of March thru November with with a potluck at **5:30,** and program at **6:15 p.m.** Bring a side to share with others. Our program for Friday, August 21 will be announced in the weekly email. An RSVP is suggested but not required. Go to the WPC website under fellowship or by calling the church office. If you should find yourself with time to attend and did not call or email, please come.

Apostles' Read Library Book Group
Tuesday, August 25

The Apostles' Read Library Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the Ziegler Library to discuss the August book, which will be announced the first week of August. New members are always welcome! Led by Dr. Aaron Berkowitz.

Westminster Gathering at Concordia
Thursday, August 27, 11:30 AM

Members and friends of Westminster will gather Thursday, August 27, at 11:30 a.m. with the pastors and the director of music and the arts, for communion followed by lunch.

Camino de Santiago

The ancient pilgrimage (also known as Way of St. James) to the Camino de Santiago de Compostela has many routes all over Europe. Debbie Parker, Judy Knox, Karen Sherrick, and Christy Pound completed the 151 mile walk from Porto Portugal to the Cathedral de Santiago de Compostela in Galicia, Spain. Congratulations to all!

June Financial Report by Lisa Runkle

With your faithful financial support, we can increase the Operating Fund income. At the end of June, year-to-date income is below budget by nearly $15,740. Expenses are under budget at the end of June by $14,780, therefore, our net total of expenses exceeding income is $959.

2026 Operations	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	$ 577,661	$ 593,400	$ -15,739
Expenses	$ -578,620	$ -593,400	$ 14,780
Net Total	$ -959	$ 0	

Sarah Zerfas, Dee Dee Duffy, and Lucy Stafford tag backpacks with a Bible verse for the Contact Ministries back to school giveaway. Our goal is 200 or more. Thank you to those who have donated in any way.

Westminster News

Milestone Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mary Alice Davis celebrates 90 years on August 7.

Al Hibbert celebrates 96 years on August 11.

Linda & Tom Purves celebrate 50 years on August 14.

Anne Smith celebrates 93 years on August 17.

Carolyn & Keith Beatty celebrate 63 years on August 31

Sacrament of Baptism

Erica and Andrew James will present their daughter, Audrey Lynn, for the Sacrament of Baptism on Sunday, August 2.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Books
A Gift to Infants at their Baptism

Audrey Lynn James will receive a book each month until age five through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

The tradition of providing this gift to infants baptized at Westminster was initiated in 2022 by Todd Wise, and given in memory of his wife, Lisa Wise, who was a kindergarten teacher, and in honor of Dr. Diane Rutledge who brought this exciting ministry to his attention.

In Memoriam

Joyce H. Olson died on Sunday, June 28 in Arlington Heights, IL . The sympathy of the congregation are extended to her family and Westminster friends.

Congratulations To

Naval officer Matthew Tungett for his promotion to Lieutenant. He is an E-2D Hawkeye Pilot and stationed in Norfolk, VA.

Dr. Phillip Wheat received a Lifetime Achievement Award on June 5, 2026, from the G. V. Black Dental Society for his contributions to oral and maxillofacial surgery in Central Illinois. Dr. Wheat retired in 2016 from Springfield Associates of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and, in addition, has since become a nationally recognized wildlife photographer.

Thank You

Church World Service sends their gratitude for collecting $840 for Blankets+ in May.

New Address

Ellen & Rance Carpenter, 3312 Nottinghill Circle, Plainfield, IN 46168

Judi Mier, Elison Assisted Living of Bella Vita, 1420 E. Venice St., Apt. A303, Venice, FL 34292

2026 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Westminster will once again collaborate with the Historic Westside Neighborhood Association to host the 2026 National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in Parish Hall with subs from Head West, chips, drinks, and Dilly Bars from Dairy Queen. They will meet with local public officials. RSVP to the Historic West Side National Night Out 2026 Facebook page for food count if you are able, but it is not required. All are welcome to enjoy fellowship and strengthen our neighborhood bond the night of the event.

Nominations for Church Officers

THE 2026 NOMINATING COMMITTEE is now receiving nominations for the following positions of leadership at Westminster.

Deacon (Class of 2029)

Elder (Class of 2029)

Nominating Committee (Class of 2027)

Strategic Planning Committee (Class of 2028)

Nominations may be placed in the offering plate, emailed to the committee chair, Julie Robbs, at robbs@casscomm.com, or placed in the Nominating Committee's mailbox on the wall in the West Narthex by the Edwards Street doors. Please complete it by August 9, 2026. Nominees will be presented for election at a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 18.

2026 Nominating Committee members: *Julie Robbs (Chair), Nathaniel Brower (elder), Sam Batterman, Brad Steller, Carolyn Swanson, Julie Sundquist, Pete VanGieson, and Bernie Wiseman*

Westminster Staff

The Reverend Dr. Anne C.S. Marshall
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Part-time Custodians

The next Reporter folding is on Wednesday, August 26 in the Second Floor Classroom.

Come fellowship with a great group of ladies & they will show you all you need to know.